

REMARKS

In the Amendments above, Claims 1, 16, and 32 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim Applicants' invention. Also, the Abstract has been amended to overcome the Examiner's objection.

According to the Office Action, Claims 1-5, 10-14, 16-22, and 26-30 have been rejected under 25 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kalis, U.S. Patent No. 5,609,624. Also, Claims 7-9, 23-25, and 32-37 have been rejected under 25 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Kalis patent in view of Andersen et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,674,276.

Applicants respectfully traverse the above rejections.

A basic difference between the invention claimed herein and the Kalis device is that the invention concerns an expandable, intraluminal stent whereas Kalis discloses a non-expandable graft having ribs for reinforcement, e.g., kink resistance, that is placed surgically. Even if the graft taught by Kalis were used as a stent, it would not be expandable. Such expandability is a key feature of Applicants' invention since, as the stent is expanded at relatively low pressure, the pressure applied to the inner surface of a vessel, e.g., to a stenosis, is much higher due to the pressure being transmitted through the projections.

In the amendments above, Claims 1, 16, and 32 have been amended to emphasize the expandable aspect of Applicants' invention.

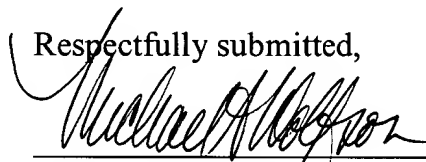
The basic flaw of the Kalis patent is not overcome by citation of the Andersen et al. patent.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's having indicated that Claims 15 and 31 contain allowable subject matter. However, Applicants believe that all the claims herein should be considered allowable.

Applicants earnestly believe that the claims herein are in allowable condition. However, should the Examiner consider that the claims are in allowable condition but for minor matters that could be the subject of either a supplemental submission or an Examiner's Amendment, Applicants would appreciate the Examiner's contacting Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims herein are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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